



CONFERENCE AGENDA
Wednesday, January 18, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 12 noon
Judicial

Title III Meeting

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
State

GEMS Data Warehouse Stakeholders Meeting

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Hallway

Late Registration and Pick up Conference Packets

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Legislative

Getting Ready, Montana Math Common Core Standards & Assessments

Jean Howard, OPI Math Content Specialist

This session provides an overview of the Montana Common Core Standards and Assessment as well as time for participants to examine the Standards for Mathematical Practice and Mathematics Content Standards. The overview and examination of the standards will provide information for participants to consider as they plan the next steps for implementing Montana Common Core Standards.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Judicial

ACT Plus Writing

Kevin Rauch, ACT

Test administration training for ACT PLUS Writing pilot schools only.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
State

Getting Ready, Montana English Language Arts Common Core Standards & Assessments

Cynthia Green, OPI English Language Arts Content Specialist

In this session you will explore a brief overview of the new English Language Arts and Literacy standards. These standards include literacy across all content areas. We will discuss the strands of the standards and review suggested assessments for the new standards.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Gallery

Using WIDA ELP Data to Serve ELLs

Maureen Keithley, WIDA Professional Development Team

This three-hour workshop will provide participants a brief overview of WIDA and information on W-APT™ and ACCESS for ELLs® score reports. Using data from these reports, along with WIDA resources, participants will be afforded opportunities to consider ways of meeting the needs of English language learners (ELLs) in various instructional settings.

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

BREAK

Sponsored by Measured Progress

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, January 19, 2012

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Late Registration and Pick up Conference Packets
7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast in the Executive-Legislative Rooms
8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. <i>Executive/Legislative</i>	Opening Remarks - Conference Kickoff <i>Judy Snow, State Assessment Director</i>
8:40 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. <i>Executive/Legislative</i>	Welcome and Introduction <i>Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau</i>
9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. <i>Executive/Legislative</i>	Keynote <i>Tony Alpert, CEO of SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium</i> The SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium provides a foothold for school systems that are stepping outside the boxes. Mr. Alpert provides an overview of how SMARTER Balanced will help Montana take the next step in developing assessments based on the Montana Common Core Standards.
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>Judicial</i>	Keynote Follow-up <i>Tony Alpert & Judy Snow</i> Q & A session with Keynote Speaker Tony Alpert
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>State</i>	AIM for Reliable Data <i>Sara Loewen & Nicole Thuotte, OPI</i> This session will provide information you need regarding entering and verifying your student data in the AIM system. Topics covered will include important dates, deadlines, data verification tips, and other quality assurance steps the OPI performs.
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>Capitol</i>	Working Together to Get Ready: Transitioning to the MCCS&A <i>Jean Howard, OPI Math Content Specialist & Gail Surwill, Billings Curriculum Director</i> Participants will examine the Standards for Mathematical Practice and discuss the implications of these standards on assessment and student success. Participants will also examine and discuss sample assessment items.
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>Gallery</i>	Formative Assessment in the Science Classroom: How Do I Do It? <i>Kristen Crawford, OPI Science Content Specialist</i> Waiting for the "state test" is too late to find out what your students don't know. This session will help educators learn more about how to assess their students in science in order to address specific strengths and weaknesses. Teachers will discover new (and easier) ways to assess and will be better equipped to plan for the next phase of instruction.
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>Lewis</i>	Eureka! Real GEMS! Data Warehouse Assessment Domain (Aspect) <i>Nick Brougham, Aspect Software</i> This will be the first presentation to the public on the GEMS Data Warehouse! This presentation will be on the Assessment Domain. You will learn how to use the Data Warehouse to access Assessment Data from the CRT tests.
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>Clark</i>	Formative Assessment Strategies in the Real Classroom <i>Wendy Ihde, Corvallis School District Curriculum Director</i> This session is designed to deepen participants' understanding of how assessment for learning can positively impact student achievement. Practical ideas to use in the classroom to help students reflect, track and share learning.
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>Montana</i>	What's in the Boxes? CRT & CRT-Alt Materials <i>Dan Verdick & Tim Greenlaw, Measured Progress</i> This presentation is intended to familiarize test coordinators and administrators with the testing materials and the resources that are available to help them administer the CRT and CRT-Alternate. We will discuss shipping and receiving, important dates and contacts, where to access information and documents, show what the materials actually look like, and how to code the answer booklets.

11:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Judicial

Linking WIDA Standards with the Common Core Standards

Jesse Markow, WIDA & Lynn Hinch, OPI English Language Acquisition Specialist

Join representatives from WIDA and MT OPI to hear about what is new in the amplified version of the English Language Development Standards. Participants will learn about more explicit ways of showing the integration of the WIDA ELP standards to the Common Core Content Standards, including MT's supplement of these standards.

11:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
State

Finding Your Way Around Infinite Campus Assessment Module– PART I of 2 Sessions

Sara Loewen, OPI & Jay Elmquist, Infinite Campus Trainer

Review the process of setting up and importing general assessment files, including file interpretation and modification. Participants will interpret a variety of common assessment file types, create assessments, create an import mapping and import test scores. Participants should bring a laptop with wireless capability and a sample of their assessment data to load into their site.

11:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Clark

FEATURED SPEAKER: Educational Excellence – Above the Line by Design

Steve Connole, Elementary Principal; Stephanie Thennis, Middle School Principal; and the Montana City School Assessment Team

This session will focus on the Professional Learning Community (PLC). Through a focus on learning, collaboration, and the use of data, the presentation will concentrate on best practices in fidelity to the core, learning teams and use of data in monitoring the progress of each individual student. Montana City School community takes pride in a shared vision creating a strong school culture based on "Educational Excellence - Above the Line by Design."

11:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Gallery

MY Access! “An Entrée” to Writing Excellence

Bobbi Barrett, OPI & Cynthia Green, OPI English Language Arts Content Specialist

Input from Montana teachers piloting My Access! Highlight those best classroom practices using this sophisticated tool for improving writing skills. IntelliMetric™ scoring provides students and teachers with immediate and powerful formative assessment feedback along with classroom instructional opportunities in Montana Schools.

11:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Lewis

Exploring the Future of the CRT-Alt

Susan Izard & Tim Greenlaw, Measured Progress

This session will be a group discussion about where the MT CRT Alternate is now and where it could go based on new understandings of how alternate assessments have worked and are working in Montana and across the country. Measured Progress representatives will lead the discussion about what some other states are doing and how Common Core Standards may change things. The session will be an open discussion in which attendees will bring their own ideas and experiences in hopes of brainstorming ideas for what could be in the future.

11:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Clark

Review & What's New: CRT Test Security, Administration & Accommodations

Judy Snow, OPI Assessment Director

This session will provide an update and review procedures, terms, and clarifications in preparation for training school personnel in administration of the CRT and CRT-Alt.

11:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Montana

CRT – Scoring Constructive Response Items

Marc Snow, Measured Progress

This session will focus on the behind-the-scenes workings of scoring operations for the Montana CRT. Each year thousands of scorers are trained to recognize the individual strengths of each Montana student's response before applying each score. Marc Snow will discuss the best-practice procedures at work in terms of scorer training, scoring logistics, and the quality control measures.

12:30 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.
Executive-Legislative

LUNCH Entertainment by Jefferson High School Drama Department

Linda Piccolo, Director

1:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Judicial

Individualizing the CRT-Alt

Tim Greenlaw, Measured Progress & Mandi Crable, Billings Public Schools

This session will focus on the administration procedures for the CRT-Alternate Assessment. A complete review of how CRT-Alternate test materials are received, distributed and used during test administration will be discussed. The session will also provide participants with important dates and deadlines, as well as information on how to label and return materials.

1:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
State

Finding Your Way Around Infinite Campus Assessment Module– PART 2 of 2 Sessions

Sara Loewen, OPI & Jay Elmquist, Infinite Campus Trainer

Review the process of setting up and importing general assessment files, including file interpretation and modification. Participants will interpret a variety of common assessment file types, create assessments, create an import mapping and import test scores. Participants should bring a laptop with wireless capability and a sample of their assessment data to load into their site.

1:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Capital

How Do You Figure? 2011 AYP Summary and Methodology

Denise Bond, OPI Research & Analysis

This presentation will demonstrate to educators the processes and methodology used to determine the 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress results.

1:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Gallery

Formative Assessment for Montana Educators (FAME)

Stevie Schmitz, OPI School Board Coach for the Schools of Promise

The purpose of FAME is to increase the understanding and use of formative assessment in the classroom. Professional Learning Communities learn and share using online technology. Formative assessment is using assessment over the course of instruction to adapt teaching and learning to meet student needs, as contrasted with summative assessment, which is an evaluation after instruction used to measure each student's mastery of the material. Learn how or if students are progressing and where they are struggling in order to make instructional changes such as re-teaching, alternative approaches, more practice, etc. Formative assessment and follow through can lead to improved student achievement. This course builds on the work of Dr. Margaret Heritage of the UCLA Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing. Come learn what new professional development will be offered through OPI in the coming months!

1:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Lewistown

Montana Common Core Standards & Assessments Round Table

Jean Howard, Cynthia Green & Judy Snow, OPI & Mike Magone and faculty, Lolo Public Schools

A round-table discussion involving educators and OPI content specialist about the necessary steps to implement the new Montana Common Core Standards and Assessments in a school district and classrooms.

1:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Clark

Explaining Your Data: Basic Data Presentation

Scott Furois, OPI Research & Analysis

This is an introduction to data presentation tools (such as pivot tables and charts) in Excel, and some tips to improve the clarity of the charts and tables produced with this data.

1:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Montana

How WIN Empowers Teachers & Students

Beverly Chin, English Teaching Program, U of M & Anna Baldwin, Arlee High School

This session will introduce participants to Writing Instruction Now, a sixth grade writing assessment which includes a rich professional development component and training in holistic assessment of student work. We will discuss the ways this formative assessment helps shape instruction and improves student writing. We will also invite WIN teacher participant Sarah Naseem to share her insights regarding each of the above session objectives. The presenters will encourage discussion among all members of the audience.

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

BREAK

Sponsored by Measured Progress

3:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Judicial

The Cutting Edge: Methods of Analyzing Testing Data

Eric Meredith, OPI Research & Analysis

This presentation is a guide to Montana's testing data and how you can use the data to make educated decisions for your school. Statistical methods of analyzing testing data will be presented in a format that anybody can understand.

3:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
State

Campus Cube Designer Becomes Campus Data Analysis

Sara Loewen, OPI & Jay Elmquist, Infinite Campus Trainer

Introduced in August 2010, Campus Data Analysis replaces Campus Cube Designer. In this session, participants will learn how to build pivots in Campus Data Analysis, view data in tabular and graphical formats, and drill through to find individual students.

3:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Capitol

FEATURED SPEAKER: Assessment (Summative & Formative) in the Science Classroom

Tom Pedersen, 2012 Montana Teacher of the Year, Capital High School

Participants will see and hear examples of assessment used in Honors Biology II (8 co-credits U of M) and Senior Science Seminar at Capital High School. Student experiences help them apply observation, research and diagnostic skills and techniques to contemporary real world issues and to academic challenges they'll encounter in the future.

3:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Gallery

ACT Plus Writing

Joe Cruse, ACT & Judy Snow, OPI Assessment Director

This session will provide an overview of the ACT Plus Writing opportunity for all Montana juniors and an introduction to ACT including an overview of the history of statewide testing. In addition, we will look at the role of statewide testing as a great equalizer in bringing more students into the college pipeline, with dramatic increases in access for lower income and minority students.

3:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Lewis

Making MARS Work for You

Dan Verdick, Measured Progress & Dave Gay, Cascade Public Schools

How to navigate the Montana Analysis and Reporting System (MARS) site, access reports and use CRT data in a meaningful way.

3:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Clark

Striving Readers

Kathi Tiefenthaler, OPI Title I & Cynthia Green, OPI English Language Arts Content Specialist

This session will be a discussion about the assessments being used in the Striving Readers Grant...the basics about what they are, what they assess and how they will be used. Vantage Learning's MY Access! Writing, istations ISIP Early and Advanced Reading, Great Schools Partnerships i-walkthrough observation tool, ACT Data and MontCAS are some of the assessments being used. Come and find out the what, the when, the why and the how of the assessments for Montana's newest literacy grant assist interested and eligible districts to increase literacy achievement.

3:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Montana

Treasure Trove of Tools, Knowledge and Ideas for Education

Mike Chapman, OPI NAEP Coordinator

Do student attitudes correlate with their scores on assessments? Is there a strong link between parental educational attainment and student achievement? How does Montana's progress compare with other states over time, according to national testing? Answering these and many other questions for educators, administrators, researchers, parents, and others is the drive behind the extensive Web presence of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). This presentation will introduce the wide variety of tools and information sources available and provide demonstrations of several of the most immediately useful for education professionals. All of these sources and tools are free and open to the public.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, January 20, 2012

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Late Registration and Pick up Conference Packets
7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast in the Executive-Legislative Rooms
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. <i>Executive/Legislative</i>	Opening Remarks <i>Judy Snow, OPI Assessment Director</i> Introductions <i>Madalyn Quinlan, OPI Chief of Staff</i>
9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. <i>Executive/Legislative</i>	Keynote Speakers <i>Bill Kilcullen & Debra Pollard, Microsoft</i> This session will take a whimsical look at the current state of data warehouses boxes and provide a glimpse into the future as we step outside and how these critical resources will lay a solid footing from which educators will be empowered to dynamically improve student outcomes.
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>Judicial</i>	Keynote Follow-up <i>Nick Brougham, Aspect Software Solutions Architect</i> An in-depth presentation on the Data Warehouse. This session will be about the GEMS Student Achievement domain. The Student Achievement domain contains longitudinal data regarding student CRT, CRT Alt and ELP results, AYP, and NAEP. You will learn how to use GEMS to access this information. Interactive and interesting!
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>State</i>	It's the Law: SB329 Data Collections <i>Madalyn Quinlan, OPI Chief of Staff</i> In 2011, the Montana Legislature created new requirements for transparency and public reporting of data related to K-12 public schools. Among the new reporting and posting requirements are salary and benefit information for school employees and average daily attendance of students. The OPI is also required to develop and display an educational data profile for each school district. This conference session will describe the new requirements (20-7-104, MCA), OPI's progress in developing data collections to meet these requirements, and the timeline for implementation of the new collections.
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>Capital</i>	The Cutting Edge: Methods of Analyzing Testing Data <i>Eric Meredith, OPI Research & Analysis</i> This presentation is a guide to Montana's testing data and how you can use the data to make educated decisions for your school. Statistical methods of analyzing testing data will be presented in a format that anybody can understand.
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>Gallery</i>	Getting Ready: Transition to the Montana Common Core State Assessments <i>Judy Snow, OPI Assessment Director & Phil Robakiewicz, Measured Progress</i> As educators and administrators prepare to implement curricula that are aligned with the new Montana Common Core standards, it is important to understand how assessment of those standards will affect Montana's state testing program. Judy Snow and Phil Robakiewicz will present an overview of some of the major differences between the two sets of standards and how the Common Core may change the focus of the state assessment. They will also provide specifics of the operational plan to create an assessment for Montana that moves its alignment from the old state standards to the Montana Common Core standards, and the information that will be made available to systems and schools to facilitate that transition.
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>Lewis</i>	Protecting Data: Privacy & Confidentiality <i>Erin Thielman, OPI Measurement & Accountability, & Sara Loewen, OPI AIM Manager</i> This session will provide you with the information you need to protect student's education data. Topics covered will include FERPA, HIPPA, and the OPI Student Records Confidentiality Policy.
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. <i>Clark</i>	Making MARS Work for You <i>Dan Verdick, Measured Progress & Dave Gay, Cascade Schools</i> Montana Analysis and Reporting System (MARS) – How to navigate the site, access reports and use CRT data in a meaningful way.

10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.
Montana

Aarr-rgh! Hidden Treasure for Educators

Colet Bartow, OPI Library Media Specialist

Participants will learn about how to access free resources available through the Montana State Library. The resources include magazine and reference databases in addition to the new homework help and live tutoring service.

11:20 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.
Judicial

Review & What's New: CRT Test Security, Administration & Accommodation

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Explaining Your Data: Basic Data Presentation

Scott Furois, OPI Research & Analysis

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Gallery

Campus Ad Hoc Updates

Nicole Thuotte, OPI & Jay Elmquist, Infinite Campus Trainer

Learn about all of the 2011 updates to the Campus Ad Hoc Reporting Module, from new features to an updated interface. Participants will learn about data grouping and aggregating, see the interface improvements and additions, and find out what fields and functions have been added.

11:20 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.
Lewis

What's in the Boxes? CRT & CRT-Alt Materials

Dan Verdick & Tim Greenlaw, Measured Progress

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11:20 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.
Clark

Q&A on GEMS Data Warehouse Assessment Domain (Aspect)

Nick Brougham, Aspect Software Solution Architect

An opportunity to get answers from the GEMS expert. If you attended either of Nick's previous session, you will have questions about how YOU can find new and better uses for the wealth of information available through the Data Warehouse.

11:20 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.
Montana

Response to Intervention (RTI)

Paula Schultz, Montana State University

RTI is the ultimate partner in formative assessment as it promotes early intervention when learning difficulties are first exhibited, modifies instructional techniques and tracks student progress. RTI uses both formal and informal assessment procedures to determine whether students are mastering content, skills and understanding. This session will review various assessment tools used for making instructional decisions and will explore strategies for modifying instruction based on assessment data.